



## Disaster and Emergency Management Resources

### Preparation for a Potential House or Building Fire

- Post emergency numbers near telephones. However, be aware that if a fire threatens your home, you should not call your emergency services from inside the home. It is better to get out first and place the call from somewhere else.
  - Develop an escape plan.
- Draw a floor plan of your home and mark two fire escape routes for each room. Make sure everyone in the house knows what to do.
  - Select a safe outside meeting place for everyone to meet after escaping from a fire. Gathering in a specific meeting place in front of the home will quickly let you know who is out, allowing you to advise firefighters of who may need help and their probable location inside.
- Conduct a home fire drill at least twice a year with all members of your household.
- Practice alerting other household members. Yell "Fire!" several times during your escape. In a real fire this will alert family members to get out.
  - Practice feeling all doors before opening them. If the door is hot, get out another way.
  - Practice a crawl-low escape from your bedroom, as if you were crawling under a layer of smoke. Crawling with your head at a level of 1 to 2 feet above the ground will temporarily provide the best air. Close doors behind you.
  - Practice getting out of your home during the day and night.
  - Practice stop, drop to the ground, and roll exercises in case clothes catch on fire.
- Consider escape ladders for sleeping areas on the second or third floor. Learn how to use them, and store them near the window. Escape ladders permit quick exits, in smoke-filled, toxic environments.

*Adapted from resource material developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency*